ADDING WEIGHT TO YOUR TESTIMONY #7 "Brotherly Kindness"
2 Peter 1: 4-7

Intro: One of the distinctive elements of the Christian faith enlarges on the concept of the people of God. In other words; a distinctive and separate human beings that are favored and given a special place in God's purposes on the earth.

I. Status

A. Not Herd mentality
1. 7.1 Billion/Wall of human beings
a. Q-who am I, why am I here?
2. Become */exploited
a. Napoleon: told this military action would cost 100,000 men. His reply, 100,000 men, what is that to me?
1. * Iran/willing expend 3.5 million people/bring chaos, trigger 12 *

B. Relationship with God
1. Christianity founded on relationship
a. **Galatians 4:4-7** *4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*
b. **Ephesians 1:5** *5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,*
c. **Ephesians 2:19** *19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,*
d. **Ephesians 3:14-15** *14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,*
2. Elevated us from the herd to member/family of God
a. Chorus: We're the people of God, called by his name, Called from the dark and delivered from shame, One Holy race, Saints every one, because of the blood of Christ Jesus the son. With our lips let us make one confession, with our hearts hold to one truth alone, He has erased our transgressions named us and called us his own.

II. Family Bonds/Perspective

A. Identity/Dimensions/Relationship
1. Brethren
a. Figuratively/ from the same womb
1. Persons united by a common interested and experience
2. Jesus notes this
a. **Matthew 12:46-48** *46 While He was still talking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him. 47 Then one said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You." 48 But He answered and said to the one who told Him, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?"*
b. **Mark 3:33-34** *33 But He answered them, saying, "Who is My mother, or My brothers?" 34 And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers!*

B. This Relationship To Govern Conduct
1. Responsibility concern and care
a. **James 2:15** *15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,*
b. **Philemon 1:16-17** *16 no longer as a slave but more than a slave--a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. 17 If then you count me as a partner, receive him as you would me.*
c. **Colossians 4:7-9** *7 Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. 8 I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may*

know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, [9] with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.

2. Frequent Comment

a. **1 Peter 3:8** *[8] Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous;*

b. **Hebrews 3:1** *[1] Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,*

c. **John 13:35** *[35] By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

d. **John 13:35** *[35] By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

e. **2 Peter 3:15** *[15] and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation--as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,*

III. Specific Consideration

A. Profound Element

1. Brotherly Kindness

a. **2 Peter 1:7** *[7] to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.*

1. Word, same as that a mother would love for child a “tender affection”

2. Jesus admonishes

a. **John 13:35** *[35] By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

b. **Romans 12:10** *[10] Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;*

c. **1 Thessalonians 4:9** *[9] But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;*

B. Define

1. Kind of a sympathetic nature. Disposed* to be helpful, of a forbearing nature, affectionate, loving

a. Tolerant, willing to forgive, overlook the flaws, because they are brethren

2. Quote #1: The ordinary demands of human relationships become a nuisance. Epictetus, the great Stole philosopher, never married. Half-jestingly he said that he was doing far more for the world by being an unfettered philosopher than if he had produced “two or three dirty-nosed children.” “How can he who has to teach mankind run to get something in which to heat the water to give the baby his bath?” What Peter is saying is that there is something wrong with the religion which finds the claims of personal relationships a nuisance. The ladder of Christian virtue must end in Christian love. Not even affection for the brethren is enough; the God which causes his sun to rise on the just and on the unjust, and sends his rain on the evil and the good. The Christian must show all men the love which God has shown to him.